

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3088

USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL ROTTERDAM

UNCLAS AMSTERDAM 464

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, NL

SUBJ: TEXTILE AND APPAREL ITEMS: FIBER AND CONSUMER ORIENTED

LABELLING REQUIREMENTS

REF: STATE A 1393, MARCH 23, 1977: AMSTERDAM A-09, APRIL 20, 1977:

AMSTERDAM A-11, MAY 11, 1977

FOLLOWING INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM GON AND TEXTILE ORGANIZATIONS. CARE, FIBER AND CONSUMER ORIENTED LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NETHERLANDS ARE GOVERNED BY REGULATIONS ISSUED BY THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND BY A DUTCH QUASI-PUBLIC AGENCY THE VERENIGING TEXTIELETIKETERING VOOR WAS EN STRIJKBEHANDELING (VTWS) ACTING IN COORDINATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE FEDERATION OF TEXTILE WHOLESALEERS. THE MINISTRY OF LABOR ALSO ISSUES PERTINENT EMPLOYEE SAFETY REGULATIONS.

1. CARE, FIBER AND COUNTRY OF ORIGIN REGULATIONS.

CARE AND COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELLING IS NOT REQUIRED, ALTHOUGH THE LATTER IS WIDELY PRACTICED. FIBER LABELLING REQUIREMENTS ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH EEC REGULATIONS AND PRIMARILY CONCERN LABELLING

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100 PERCENT PURE ARTICLES.

2. FLAMMABILITY STANDARDS.

MINISTRY OF LABOR REGULATIONS REQUIRE TESTING AND LABELLING OF TEXTILE WALL, PANEL, FLOOR OR CEILING COVERINGS WHEN IMPREGNATED WITH CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES. LABELLING OF OTHER ARTICLES FOR FLAMMABILITY IS NOT REQUIRED AND IS RARELY DONE VOLUNTARILY.

3. CHEMICAL CONTENT.

THERE ARE NO REGULATIONS ON LABELLING FOR CHEMICAL CONTENTS AS SUCH. SEE 1 ABOVE FOR LABELLING FOR PURITY OF FIBER. HOWEVER, TEXTILE PRODUCTS MUST BE LABELLED FOR COMPOSITION AT EACH STAGE FROM MANUFACTURE THROUGH SALE TO END-USER. COMPOSITION LABELLING MUST BE IN DUTCH REGARDLESS OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, WITH TWO MAJOR EXCEPTIONS: ARTICLES PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE, AND MANUFACTURED ARTICLES FOR PERSONAL USE OF NON-TEXTILE MATERIALS SUCH AS LEATHER ARTICLES, PLASTIC CLOTHING AND GLOVES. NONETHELESS, VOLUNTARY LABELLING OF THE LATTER, ESPECIALLY LEATHER GOODS, IS ALMOST UNIVERSAL.

5. METHODS OF SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS.

STANDARDS REGULATIONS VARY BY ARTICLE AND COMPOSITION. THESE ARE COORDINATED BY THE VTWS.

6. DIFFERENCES IN REQUIREMENTS APPLIED TO HOST COUNTRY TEXTILE AND APPAREL MANUFACTURES VS. IMPORTS.
NONE.

7. EFFECTIVE DATES FOR REQUIREMENTS OR REGULATIONS IN EFFECT:

A) COMPOSITION:

EEC BULLETIN L 185/1971
EEC BULLETIN L 14/1975

B) SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS:

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NEDERLANDS STAATSBLAD 512/1974
NEDERLANDS STAATSBLAD 626/1976
EEC BULLETIN L 173/1972

C) GENERAL:

NEDERLANDS STAATSCOURANT 244/1974

8. THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS HAS INFORMED US THAT THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF TEXTILE LABELLING IS BEING REVISED IN AN ATTEMPT TO STANDARDIZE PRACTICES WITHIN THE EEC.

9. WE ARE FORWARDING UNDER COVER OF AN AIRGRAM A) THREE VTWS PUBLICATIONS, IN DUTCH, COVERING BOTH REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED LABELLING IN DETAIL AND B) COPIES OF:

EEC COUNCIL DIRECTIVE L 185/16 OF AUGUST 16, 1971
NEDERLANDS STAATSCOURANT 244 OF DEC.16, 1974 (PERTINENT PORTIONSONLY)

NEDERLANDS STAATSBLAD 626 OF NOVEMBER, 1975.

IN PRACTICE, WE RECOMMEND THAT AMERICAN EXPORTERS BE ENCOURAGED TO
CONTACT THEIR DUTCH TRADING PARTNERS FOR ASSISTANCE WITH QUESTIONS
CONCERNING LABELLING FOR THIS MARKET NOT ANSWERED BY THIS COMMUNI-
CATION.
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